



Meeting GOVERNANCE AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Date Wednesday 14 June 2023 (commencing at 10.30am)

membership

### **COUNCILLORS**

Philip Owen (Chairman)  
Johno Lee (Vice-Chairman)

Richard Butler	Sue Saddington
Samantha Deakin - <b>Apologies</b>	Helen-Ann Smith
Errol Henry JP - <b>Apologies</b>	Nigel Turner
Andy Meakin - <b>Apologies</b>	Roger Upton
Michael Payne - <b>Apologies</b>	

### **SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Councillor Jim Creamer for Councillor Errol Henry  
Councillor David Martin for Council Samantha Deakin  
Councillor Mike Pringle for Councillor Michael Payne  
Councillor Francis Purdue-Horan for Councillor Meakin

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Maria Ballantyne	- Adult Social Care & Public Health
Ainsley Macdonnell	
Heather Dickinson	- Chief Executives
Richard Elston	
Andrew Howarth	
Simon Lacey	
Kate Morris	
Jo Toomey	
Marjorie Toward	
Nigel Stevenson	
Rob Briggs	- Children and Families
Peter McConnochie	
Lynda Poole	

### **1. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT BY FULL COUNCIL ON 11 MAY 2023 OF COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN AS CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLOR JONO LEE AS VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2023-24 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The committee noted the appointment of Councillor Philip Owen as Chairman and Councillor Johno Lee as Vice-Chairman for the 2023-24 municipal year.

**2. TO NOTE THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2023-24 MUNICIPAL YEAR DETAILS ON THE AGENDA FRONTSHEET**

The committee noted the membership for the 2023-24 municipal year.

**3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the last meeting held on 3 May 2023, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**4. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

- Councillor Samantha Deakin (Other Reasons)
- Councillor Errol Henry (Other Reasons)
- Councillor Andy Meakin (Other Reasons)
- Councillor Michael Payne (Medical Reasons)

**5. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None.

**6. UPDATE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SOCIAL CARE OMBUDSMAN DECISIONS (MARCH TO MAY 2023)**

The report set out information about two complaints against the Council where fault was found by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman. Members were given the opportunity to ask questions of officers and seek assurance about actions put in place from the relevant departments regarding those complaints.

Members expressed concerns about the number of ombudsman decision involving missed Education Health & Care Plans time scales acknowledging that recruitment was underway for additional Plan writers and that work had been done within the team to ensure processes were updated and streamlined.

**RESOLVED: 2023/25**

That members note the findings of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and welcome the lessons learned and actions taken to the findings.

**7. ASSURANCE MAPPING ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023**

Members had the opportunity to ask questions around the outcomes of the assurance mapping work carried out during 2022/23 and the proposed approach for 2023/24. They questioned the staff turnover rate reported within the appendix and received assurances that the number had now stabilised and was returning to the usual lower average.

**RESOLVED: 2023/26**

(1) That the Committee endorse the continued use of assurance mapping process in 2023/24.

- (2) That committee endorse the consolidation of the of the scope of the assurance map for 2023/24 to focus on the existing eight assurance areas.
- (3) That progress against proposed actions to address the issues identified be reported to the Committee as part of quarterly update reports on the Annual Governance Statement.

#### **8. CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022/23**

Members received the Chief Internal Auditor's Annual report for 2022/23. They asked questions around risk management and received assurances from officers.

##### **RESOLVED: 2023/27**

- (1) That the contents of the Chief Internal Auditors Report and the successful achievement of the External Quality Assessment the be noted.
- (2) That a further report will be brought to the committee in 12-months' time.

#### **9. FOLLOW-UP OF INTERNAL AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Report highlighted the progress of the implementation of agreed management actions to address Internal Audit recommendations. Members thanks officers for their proactive approach to the work.

##### **RESOLVED: 2023/28**

- (1) That the Committee note the contents of the reports and the progress that has been made against the Internal Audit recommendations.
- (2) That a further progress report and an update on those actions outstanding be included in the next 6-monthly review.

#### **10. USE OF THE COUNCILLORS' DIVISIONAL FUND**

The report set out the annual update on the use of the Councillor's Divisional Fund for 2022/23 and Members had the opportunity to ask questions. Members commented that the new electronic system recently introduced was easy to use and allowed members to quickly see remaining funds.

##### **RESOLVED: 2023/29**

That the Committee notes the Councillors' Divisional Fund expenditure for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 as detailed in Appendix A to the report.

#### **11. WORK PROGRAMME**

##### **RESOLVED: 2023/31**

That the work programme be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11:21am  
CHAIRMAN